



Meeting  
August 18, 2015

Present: Commissioners

Stephen Albee, At-Large  
Sue Dana, Village of Calumet  
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan  
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Kim Hoagland, At-Large  
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township  
John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Park Service

Brian Hoduski, Acting Superintendent and Chief of Museum Services

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee  
Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet  
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University  
Lauren Menzies, KNHP Museum Technician  
Scott MacInnes, Local resident

### **Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called to order at 9:02 a.m., Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Ed Jenich and seconded by Stephen Albee to approve agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously. (6/0, 1 absent).**

### **Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2015**

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Stephen Albee to approve the minutes with the addition of the total amount of bills. **Motion carried unanimously. (6/0, 1 absent).**

### **National Significance Spotlight: Dr. Larry Lankton**

Dr. Larry Lankton, historian of technology and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Technological University, presented an engaging overview of the importance of mining technology to the national significance of Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Dr. Lankton defined technology as “a system of knowledge, tools, and manipulative skills organized to do work,” and emphasized that it was the novel arrangement of many existing technologies into site-specific technological complexes, rather than the invention of any single technology, that is the hallmark of the mining operations of the Keweenaw. While there are notable technological achievements associated with copper mining technologies of the Keweenaw peninsula (including the hydraulic air compressor at Victoria mine, the Redridge steel dam, and the first man-engine in the United States at Cliff mine), it was the employment of numerous old technologies in new combinations (such as at the No. 2 Quincy shaft-rockhouse) that is particularly important to the development of the region.

Dr. Lankton further elaborated that the success of the mining operations in the Keweenaw depended to a large degree not on any individual piece of technology, but the careful adoption and application of numerous interacting technologies to each of the multiple steps of copper production—drilling, blasting, crushing, and so on—to remain as productive and profitable for as long as they did.

### **Discussion following Dr. Lankton’s presentation**

In response to a question from Commissioner Hoagland, Dr. Lankton explained Calumet and Hecla’s strategy of duplicate machinery as a means to avoid unproductive periods due to breakdowns, and noted that only the wealthiest company could undertake such an effort.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Scott See reported on how the goals of the Advisory Commission were supported during the quarter.

### **Advise the National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park on park planning, preservation, interpretation, and operational matters.**

See participated in a Foundations Planning workshop that the NPS held April 28th through April 30th. The Foundations document is a distillation of the General Management Plan (GMP) that includes changes that have occurred since the completion of the current GMP, and highlights additional planning activities needed by the park. This document will be extremely useful to the new KNHP Superintendent, and will help better explain the park to partners.

### **Develop the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a consortium of fully sustainable sites.**

See facilitated the Spring Heritage Site Meeting on May 18th. Sixteen of the twenty-one Sites attended the meeting, as well as representatives from the Quincy Smelter Association and the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association. The group shared their respective plans for the summer and heard updates from the NPS Interpretive Staff and the Commission. These meetings continue to be useful to the Sites, with the opportunities for networking being just as important as the content presented to them.

See also attended two Heritage Site events during the last quarter: the Hanka Homestead volunteer appreciation event where he addressed their preservation efforts, and an open house at the Keweenaw County Historical Society's Life-Saving Station in Eagle Harbor. The Society hosted a presentation on the history of the Coast Guard, and highlighted the roof and boat-way work recently completed by the DNR.

### **Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.**

See reported that quite a bit of work has happened this quarter at Quincy Smelter site. The NPS has contracted with Weston Solutions to conduct additional environmental cleanup work to take place next summer, and See has been working to contract the archaeological compliance activities required to support this cleanup work. As a follow-up to the mercury remediation in the Assay Office conducted last fall, See worked with Weston Solutions to test the current mercury levels to ensure that the remediation worked. As the testing was clear, the Assay Office has been reopened tours. The Youth Conservation Corp conducted a small cleanup activity of non-hazardous materials along the fence line, and there have been several maintenance issues attended to on the property. See additionally facilitated several tours of the site for NPS leadership to continue to emphasize the national significance of the smelter as a resource that should eventually be owned by the NPS.

On August 10th, See presented the Franklin Township board with a plaque thanking them for their stewardship of the smelter over the last fifteen years. The township board, and especially Glenn Ekdahl, put in numerous hours over the years to take care of the property and ensure its survival.

John Arnold has completed the second phase of his project to research possible reuse alternatives for the industrial buildings in Calumet. Phase I focused on identifying the buildings most

appropriate for reuse, and Phase II involved researching what has been done in other areas of the country in order to generate ideas for our situation. John is now working on Phase III, which is putting together the information to make some specific recommendations for Calumet.

Dave Parker from the Houghton County Historical Society has been selected to lead the Society's Quincy Dredge Committee. See met with Parker recently, who reported that he had been meeting with interested parties in the community to gather ideas, and that he hopes to have a larger committee meeting later this fall that will be open to the public.

During the quarter, See also attended a board meeting of the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation. This meeting took place on Isle Royale and at Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota. The group finalized its development plan and is now in the process of researching grant opportunities to fund their efforts in assisting the national parks. The next board meeting will be here at Keweenaw in early September, and opportunities for the group and the Commission to interact have been scheduled.

### **Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.**

The Keweenaw Heritage Grant Program awarded eighteen grants totaling \$141,143. All funds have been have disbursed and most of the awardees are well into their projects, while Hanka Homestead has already completed their project and held a celebration to recognize their volunteers.

See reported that he has attended several meetings and field trips focused on the stamp sand deposit at Gay—two companies have proposed to remove the stamp sand for commercial purposes. While the removal of the sand may have a positive environmental impact, it will irreversibly change the industrial landscape of the area. The Commission and the NPS have been involved to help determine steps that will ensure that the story of Gay and its industry won't be lost if the stamp sand is removed.

This quarter See met with Jeff Ratcliffe, the new executive director of the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance (KEDA), to discuss their respective missions and determine if there are ways to best work together. See also attended a community planning session facilitated by KEDA to discuss Keweenaw-wide economic development plans and reported that the group was receptive to adding historic preservation to their documents as a value that needs to be considered when talking about economic development.

Further, See reported that he and Superintendent Pflaum met with Brenda Barrett on August 5th. Ms. Barrett is the former head of the National Heritage Area program for the park service and now publishes a web-based newsletter, the Living Landscape Observer (<http://livinglandscapeobserver.net/>). Barrett repeatedly expressed her admiration for the work the of the Commission and the NPS, and considers it an exemplary model that other communities should explore; See was asked to write a brief article for her newsletter to share the work being done here.

### **Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.**

See reported that the NPS has committed to provide the Commission with the full \$250,000 legislatively authorized. This is the third consecutive year that the Commission has received the full amount—a commitment that demonstrates confidence in the work of the Commission. See thanked Superintendent Pflaum for helping to secure these funds, and John Rosemurgy for his assistance with the necessary government paperwork.

Finally, See also reported that the Commission's anonymous donor has committed another \$100,000 in funding. See reiterated his gratitude to this donor, and again acknowledged the significant assistance that their contributions have made to the Commission's programs. Including this new pledge, the donor has now provided the Commission with a total of \$600,000 to support the mission.

## **Commission Committees and Projects**

### **Announcements / Executive**

Commissioner Langseth reported that he and See conducted an exit interview with outgoing Superintendent Mike Pflaum, and echoed See's remarks on the Foundations Planning workshop, which he also attended.

### **Budget / Finance**

Commissioner Dana reported that the Commission has reviewed the financial statements and quarterly bills, from April 22, 2015 to August 18, 2015.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Kim Hoagland to approve bills in the amount of \$186,891.55, plus wages and tax payments of \$20,211.39 for \$207,102.94 total. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Development**

Executive Director See added that the Commission has applied for a grant of about \$4000 from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) to fund a planned art exhibit focused on the Quincy Smelter to be held at the Copper Country Community Arts Center (CCCAC) in Hancock.

### **Partnerships**

Nothing to report.

### **Preservation-Stewardship**

Nothing to report.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Acting Superintendent Brian Hoduski provided an overview of recent news and summaries of key accomplishments of the various park divisions.

Hoduski reported that Superintendent Mike Pflaum has been promoted to the superintendency of Badlands National Park, and will be beginning there at the end of this month. KNHP hopes to have a new Superintendent in place by the end of this year or early in 2016.

In anticipation of next year's NPS Centennial celebration, KNHP is hosting a 99th birthday party on Tuesday, August 26th featuring a series of events and tours, an open house, food, and music.

The Interpretation and Education division included a number of noteworthy items in their report. Keweenaw Heritage Sites are preparing for the Interpretive Planning workshops that will be held

in late October and early November. They are gathering information, evaluating existing interpretive opportunities, and brainstorming ideas for further visitor engagement. Visitation on ranger-led programs is up 15% this year. This is attributed to increased publicity and the increased number of staff presenting programs. Staff are offering a wide variety of interpretive walks and evening programs that reflects the diversity of the staff and their research. The *Copper Country Scavenger Hunt* book was distributed to all Keweenaw Heritage Sites in early July. This booklet is similar to an NPS Junior Ranger book and encourages youth to explore the area's local history. Several kids have completed the book already, which is a significant accomplishment.

In addition, work is underway on developing curriculum for the Calumet Visitor Center exhibits that will be posted on-line by October. The curriculum will be advertised to all area schools and presented to local educators during a regional in-service training. An Educator's Guide for the new children's strike film is also under development, and will be posted on the park webpage in October.

Finally, planning is underway to implement the "Every Kid in a Park" in fall of 2015. Planning and implementation for 2015 and 2016 Centennial activities continues, and Facebook posts continue to elicit positive comments as staff continues to research and write interpretive posts, with an ever increasing number of followers.

The Landscape Preservation division also reported numerous key accomplishments for this quarter. Landscape Architect Steve DeLong initiated work for a vegetation removal project designed to help restore views on Quincy Hill for NPS and QMHA properties, coordinated efforts with Don Lafreniere of MTU on the *Imagining the Keweenaw* GIS project, and worked with the Interpretation division and MTU Cycling Club to co-sponsor the annual Keweenaw Fall Color Bicycle Tour as part of the NPS Centennial Find Your Park Campaign, in addition to organizing a meeting and trail reconnaissance visit with State of Michigan DNR and Trail representatives to discuss the viability of multi-use trail improvements between park units and determined next steps to explore project potential.

DeLong also developed motorist guidance signs for the Carnegie Museum, Eagle Harbor Museum, and the Michigan Tech Archives including MDOT approval and a price quote for fabrication, coordinated the installation of a visitor information sign at Houghton County Historical Society, and arranged for a monument conservation assessment for the Alexander Agassiz Sculpture.

The Lake Superior Collection Management Center also reported a busy quarter. Chief of Museum Services Brian Hoduski facilitated the donation of artwork depicting historic Houghton scenes from the former Shebuski medical building to the Finnish American Heritage Center, who in turn loaned the art to the Carnegie Museum and Houghton City Hall for exhibition.

New seasonal museum technician Lauren Menzies was hired in June to catalog and photograph KNHP museum collections in preparation for posting to the NPS Web Catalog. Menzies has cataloged over 300 objects for the park, to date.

Park archivist Jeremiah Mason has responded to roughly 240 reference requests so far this year. This already far surpasses the average of 180 requests he typically responds to annually. Much of this increase is due to higher internal staff requests for material to use in programs and on social media. In addition to staff use of the collection and the usual family history and property research, park collections have or will soon be featured in *Michigan History* magazine, exhibits at CHS/SHHS All-School Reunion activities, heritage site exhibits, and in documentary films.

Interns Riipaa and Rasmussen, under the direction of archivist Mason, completed the organization and cataloging of the Merchants and Miners Bank records. The resulting finding aid will also be uploaded to the NPS Web catalog. This is in addition to the completion of a finding aid for the Randy Weege papers.

New museum technician Deanna Brown performed to an excellent level in keeping exhibit and museum work and storage spaces house-kept and environmentally-monitored.

### **Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Allan Johnson expressed gratitude to Brian Hoduski for his hard work in this time of managerial transition.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that repointing of the Copper Country Firefighters History Museum in Calumet has been completed, and that a lead abatement project will be underway by the end of September. Sullivan also thanked the SEEDS crew for their help in cleaning the second floor of the museum. Finally, Sullivan reported that the Quincy Mine solar project is nearing completion, noting that the lighting in the adit has been upgraded to LED system, and adding that an electric personnel carrier is being designed and built to replace the current tractor-and-wagon being used for tours.

Commissioner Dana reported that the recent sand casting demonstration at Coppertown was very popular and well attended, as was July's Pastyfest. Dana thanked Dave Geisler for his role in its success.

Commissioner Langseth reported that the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's has to date conducted four hourly programs expanding on the "National Significance Spotlight" introductory talks presented at Advisory Commission quarterly meetings, and will be submitting recordings of these presentations to the Park archives. Langseth also thanked the Commission for a grant that has enabled the Heritage Center to build a new kitchen, which will be operational shortly.

### **Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

### **Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Virginia Jamison of the Keweenaw County Historical Society (KCHS) thanked the Centennial SEEDS YCC crew for their grounds work at a number of sites and for their work in creating a database for an historic book collection owned by the society.

Jamison also reported that, thanks to a grant from the Advisory Commission, roof work on the lifesaving station is underway, and that old shingles are available in exchange for a donation.

Finally, Jamison thanked Dr. Susan Martin for her assistance with the exhibit of ancient artifacts held at the History Museum, noting that they will be producing an interpretive video to accompany the exhibit.

### **Comments from the Public**

Village of Calumet President Dave Geisler called attention to the upcoming sesquicentennial celebration of the creation of Calumet Township, and noted that a planning commission is meeting monthly to plan an observance of the occasion.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Stephen Albee, and seconded by Ed Jenich at 10:42 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.